

H. Res. 309

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

June 9, 2005.

Whereas on March 1, 1872, Yellowstone was established as the world's first national park;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park encompasses over 2 million acres and is one of America's Crown Jewels of the National Park System;

Whereas over 2.8 million people visit Yellowstone National Park annually to admire its world famous geysers, hot springs, and remarkable wildlife, and to hike its more than 950 miles of backcountry trails;

Whereas on May 16–17, 2005, a major mudslide bisected the scenic Beartooth Highway in 6 sections requiring visitors from Montana to undertake a detour to the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone National Park;

Whereas the scenic Beartooth Highway provides on average 190,000 visitors annually easy access to the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone National Park;

Whereas the scenic Beartooth Highway has been recognized as one of the most scenic drives in the United States; and

Whereas the scenic Beartooth Highway is the economic artery for the citizens of the gateway communities of Red Lodge, Cooke City, and Silver Gate, Montana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the critical importance of ensuring unfettered access to visitors of Yellowstone National Park and preserving the economy of Red Lodge, Montana; and

(2) urges the President to take, without hesitation, all necessary actions to assist the Governor of Montana in reopening, as quickly as possible, the scenic Beartooth Highway that provides access to Yellowstone National Park.

Attest:

Clerk.